

**James Mackay to George Washington, September 28, 1754, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

**FROM CAPTAIN JAMES MACKAY.**

CAMP MOUNT PLEASANT NEAR WILLS CREEK 28 Sept. 1754

DEAR SIR

About a fortnight ago I went down to Penselvania and on my Return about Three days ago I was favour'd wt. yours without a date. I am sorry to find your assembly met to so little purpose. Govr. Morris is arriv'd at Philadelphia by this time, he was at New York these ten days, they are in hopes of grate matters when there new assembly meets (which is to be Elected the first of Octr.) as they are every where endeavoring to get out the Quakers.

I had several disputes about our Capitulation<sup>1</sup> but I satisfy'd every Person that mention'd that Subject as to the Artickles in Question, that they were owing to a bad Interperter and Contrary to the translation made to us when we sign'd them. We are now fortifying ourselves here, and I am affraid no prospect of going farther this winter. Capt. Rutherford who Commands one of the New York Comps. is Just arriv'd from England and cam up with me from Philadelphia, he expects that Govr. Dinwiddie will have sum particular Instructions by Govr. Dobs which will enable him to Proceed more Vigorously but I believe all will be too late for this year. I have no more to add for we have at present peace and plenty the Genn. with me Join in our Compliments to you and the officers of your Corps.

I am Dr. Sir Your Most Affectionate Humble Servt. JAMES MACKAY

1 Articles of capitulation granted by M. de Villiers, and signed by James Mackaye, G. Washington, and Conlon Villiers at Fort Necessity, on the evening of the action of July 3, permitting the English troops to retire with drums beating and one swivel gun, and to hide and return for whatever they were unable immediately to carry with them, on condition that they put up no more buildings on that side of the mountains, and left Captains Vanbraam and Stobo as hostages for the prisoners taken at the "assassination" of M. de Jumonville. These articles, which were written in French, were read to Washington by Vanbraam, a Dutchman, who possessed a poor knowledge either of French or English, and who, either intentionally or otherwise, translated the word "assassination" as "the killing of."